Unified Headquarters of security agencies

332. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed to set up a unified Headquarters' of security agencies involved in counter insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether such a set up will be structured on the lines of one presently operating in Assam/North Eastern; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in order to coordinate counter terrorism efforts in J&K, two Unified Headquarters (UHQs) at Srinagar and Jammu have been constituted by the State Government. As per the orders currently in force the Chief Minister J&K is the Chairman of both the UHQs and the two General Officers Commanding XV and XVI corps are its members along with other representatives of para-military agencies, State intelligence and civil administration. Recently the composition and working of the two UHQs was reviewed by the Government and it has been decided that there is no need for any change and that the existing system should continue to function in its present form.

Deputy Prime Minister's visit to the US

333. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Deputy Prime Minister to the US, the US President had renewed his assurance to take up with Pakistani President Parvez Musharraf the need for creating a conducive atmosphere for Indian Prime Minister's peace initiative to succeed when the Pak President meets him later in June, 2003; and

(b) whether he also made it clear that conducive climates needed for peace talks, means a full stop to infiltration of terrorists and terrorist acts by them and includes a complete dismantling of terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pak occupied Kashmir?